

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 12, 1962

Dear Ted:

I am enclosing a suggestion for the President's next Press Conference to which I referred yesterday.

As you know, many people throughout Latin America were critical of the support we gave Batista prior to the development of Castro. On that score, they charge the Eisenhower Administration for some degree of responsibility for the present miserable situation.

A clear statement by the President as to what kind of Cuba we would like to see develop following Castro would, I think, have enormous impact within Cuba itself and also throughout Latin America.

I am leaving for Africa on Monday. Good luck in all that you are doing for the campaign.

With my warmest regards,

Sincerely,



Enclosure

Chester Bowles

President's Special Representative

The Honorable
Theodore Sorensen,
Special Counsel to the President,
The White House.

SUGGESTED REMARKS ON CUBA
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S NEXT PRESS CONFERENCE

Question: There has been a lot of talk about why we dislike the Castro Government in Cuba -- but what kind of government do we really want there?

The President: Of course what kind of government and political philosophy develops in Cuba is a question that can only be answered by the Cuban people. However, I think it's fair to say that the people of the United States and their Government want above all else to see the Cuban people free to make their own choices, free to enjoy economic progress and social justice with a full measure of personal dignity, political liberty, and national independence.

On many occasions in their history, Cubans have risen to overthrow tyrants -- foreign and domestic -- who have destroyed liberty, perverted justice, and exploited the economy for their own selfish ends.

I deeply believe that the day will come when the Cuban people will rise once again.

When they do, I am confident it will not be to return to the old days or the old ways of dictatorship and

degradation, which brought great riches to a few and poverty and injustice to the many.

This generation of Cubans want more than relief from Communism; they want relief from poverty, ignorance and ill health.

It's my guess that when the great day of liberation comes, the Cuban people will insist

... that all farmers shall own and till their own land;

... that all taxes are paid by those best able to pay them and in proportion to their wealth;

... that every Cuban child shall have a good education;

... that workers will receive a fair day's pay for a fair day's work;

... that everyone may once again speak, write, read and worship in peace, freedom and dignity.

These are the things we have fought to secure here in the United States. These are the things that the people of Cuba will demand and eventually get.

We, the people of the United States, are pledged to help speed the day of Cuban liberation by every practical means. We shall keep that pledge.

Chester Bowles
October 12, 1962